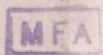


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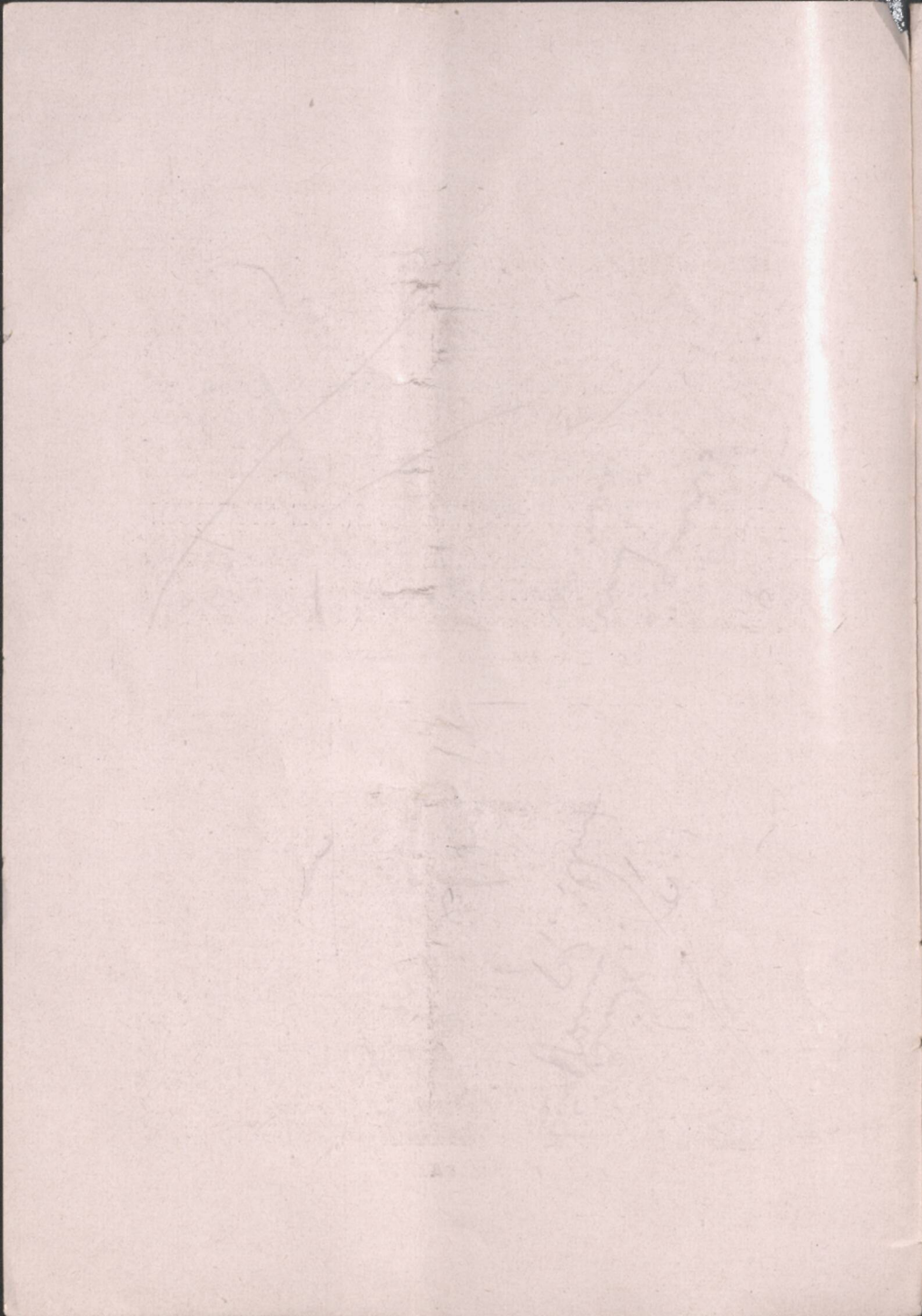


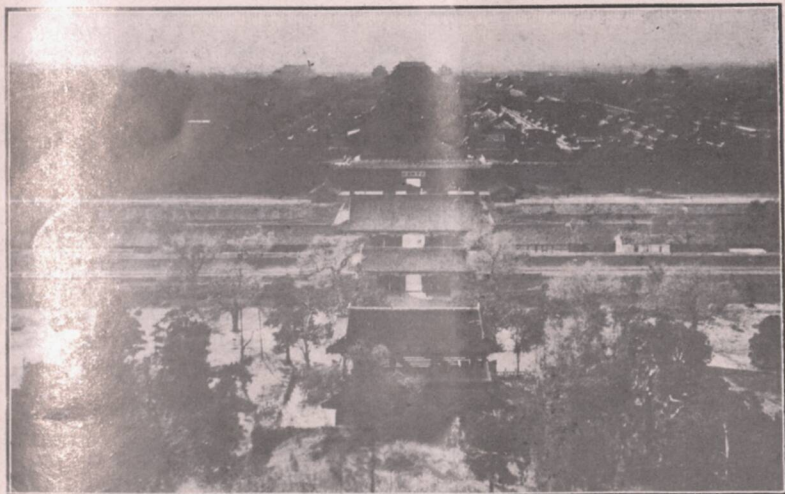
A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE PALACE MUSEUM
PEPING, CHINA

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BIRDS EYE VIEW OF THE PALACE.

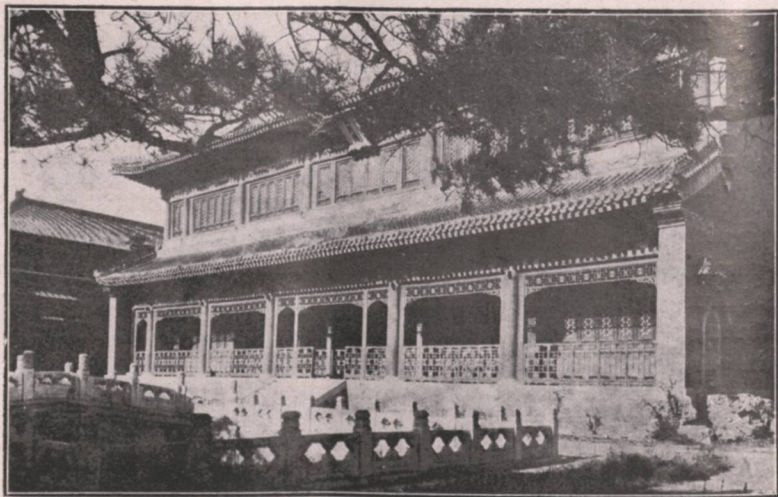


GATE OF THE PALACE.

THE COLLECTIONS

The valuable collections in the Palace Museum may be grouped into books, historical records, paintings and calligraphy, old bronzes, porcelains, jades and other precious stones, carvings and engravings, lacquer wares, tapestries and embroideries. A rough description of each class follows:

(a) *Books*—Among books, the Palace Museum has many large collections, the best known of which are the Sze K'u Ch'uan Shu, or the Imperial Library, amounting to more than thirty-six thousand MSS. volumes, for which a special palace called Wen Yen Ko was built; Sze K'u Huei Yao, or, the abstract of the Imperial Library, about eleven thousand MSS. volumes; Tu Shu Chi Cheng, or, the Chinese Encyclopaedia, about five thousand volumes (original edition) and Yuan Wei Peh Tsong, about seven hundred MSS. volumes. Each of these is in manuscript and they are easily the largest and most



WEN YEN KO, AN IMPERIAL LIBRARY.

unique of their kind in the world. Besides these mammoth collections, there are many original editions of Sung, Yuan and Ming dynasty books. The total number of books in the Palace Museum is about twelve hundred thousand volumes, many of which are the only copies in existence.

(b) *Historical Records*—Among the records may be mentioned the Chien Ching Kung's Practical Accounts of the Royal Household, unknown to the outside, Huang Shih Cheng's Ching Emperors' Private Accounts, Registration of the life of the Emperors, Records of Emperors' Instructions, unpublished edicts and memorials, budgets of the Royal Household, official reports of the Privy Council, etc. Besides, there are no less than one thousand pieces each of valuable maps, portraits, imperial seals and charters. These seals and charters are of great interest as they are made of either solid gold or jade, and we can find even the jade charters from the Ming Dynasty. Royal robes, ancient weapons, musical instruments and various kinds of objects of historical value are also in the collection.

(c) *Paintings and Calligraphy*—The majority of these are stored in the two halls Chai Kung and Chuang Tsai Kung. Among the eight thousand pieces there, many are original paintings of the famous masters of Sung, Yuan and Ming dynasties. Smaller collections are found in other palace buildings, where one may see some of foreign origin (mostly painted by Jesuit fathers). The oldest paintings date back to the Tsin Dynasty (265-420 A.D.).

(d) *Porcelains and Pottery*—A complete collection can be found in King Yang Kung and King Kee Ko. The number stored in these two halls amounts to more than six thousand pieces of porcelains, forming a very good representative collection of each famous kiln from the Sung to the Ming Dynasty. Fine porcelains of the Ching Dynasty are numerous,



CHING YANG KUNG.

among which are well known products of the Kang Hsi and Chien Lung periods. Besides porcelains, ancient pottery is well represented.

(e) *Old Bronzes*—Among the many antique bronzes, special mention should be made of a bronze basin known as the Nation's Honour, from the Chou Dynasty (about 1000 B.C.) and a bronze standard measure from the Han Dynasty (about the time of the 1st century). Each has great historical interest, and they are the only ones of their kind preserved in China. There are many other bronzes, some with over three thousand years' history. There are, again, not a few of the astronomical instruments made by the Jesuit fathers who came to China in the 17th century.

(f) *Jades and other precious Stones*—Chinese jades are world famous, and it is to be expected that the Palace Museum should have many of the finest specimens. For example, there

are in the Museum a jade basin representing in miniature a lake and a jade block representing in miniature a mountain, the beauty of which cannot be adequately described. There is also a marvelous block of jade no less than ten feet high, on which is carved a picture of ancient Chinese river conservancy work. Besides these, there are about one hundred thousand pieces of jade articles varying in size from several feet in height to tiny ones of a fraction of an inch in diameter. Articles made of other precious stones, corals, ivory, or shells, are very numerous, all distinguished by the brilliancy, beauty, and rarity of material, as well as by the exquisite workmanship.

(g) *Miscellaneous Collection*—Among these, are the minor material, as lacquers, cloisonnes, embroideries, old stationeries, etc. Many of them have more or less historical interest attached to them. Statues of Buddhas, religious relics and sutras form another large division.

The above is intended merely to give an indication of the vast amount of material in the Palace Museum. The Museum is publishing an inventory (in Chinese) to which those interested in the collections of the Museum are referred.

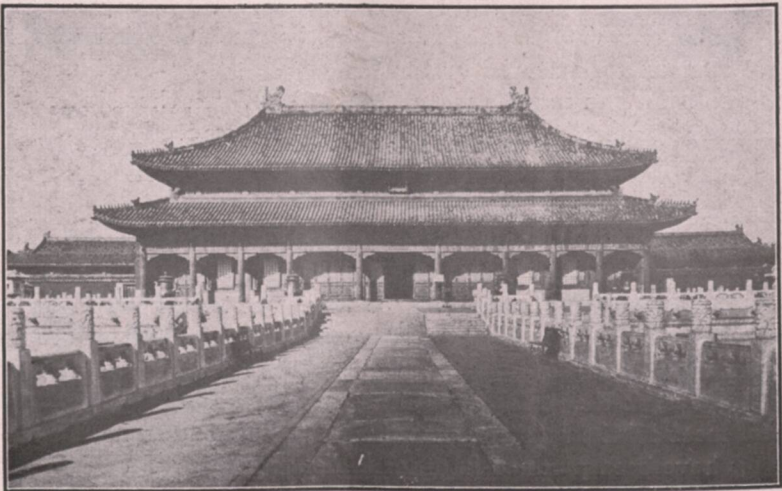
BUILDING PLANS OF THE MUSEUM

The buildings in the Palace have not been kept in good condition during the last thirty years. Many of them are in immediate need of repairs, while all have to be renovated. Moreover, as the palace buildings are very scattered, they do not meet all the requirements of the Museum and so new buildings have been planned in order to house properly certain of the exhibits.

The plans of the Museum are as follows:

(a) *Palace Buildings*—The present palace buildings will be preserved as far as possible. The buildings in the middle and west sections of the inner palace will be kept in their entirety, both as to their outside appearance and interior decorations and furnishings, to illustrate court life of the Manchus. Visitors will be able to see here how the emperors lived.

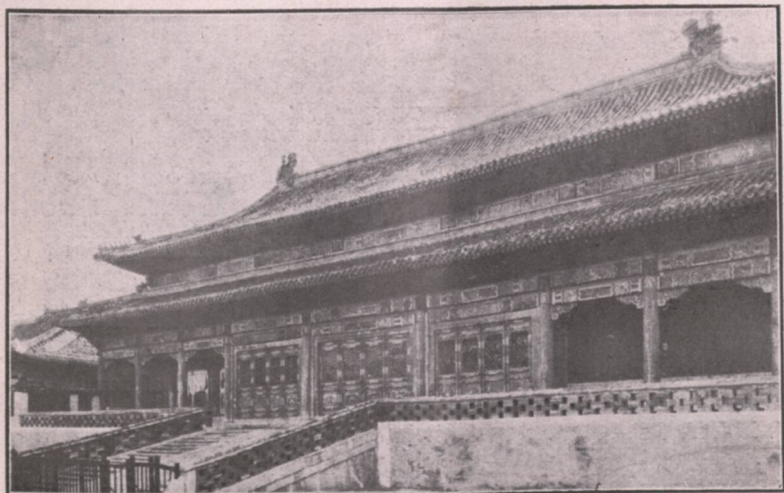
The buildings in the east section will be turned into the general museum and art galleries. Those in the exterior west section will be used for the library, while the buildings in the Ning Shou Kung will house the exhibits of the Department of Historical Records. For the conversion of these buildings for museum purposes, only slight alterations are necessary, but it is necessary to add strong rooms and reinforced-concrete vaults to these buildings for the proper preservation of the more valuable articles.



CHIEN CHING KUNG.



CHIAO TA TIEN.



KUNG NING KUNG.



TE HO TIEN (ONE OF THE PAVILIONS IN WEST SECTION).

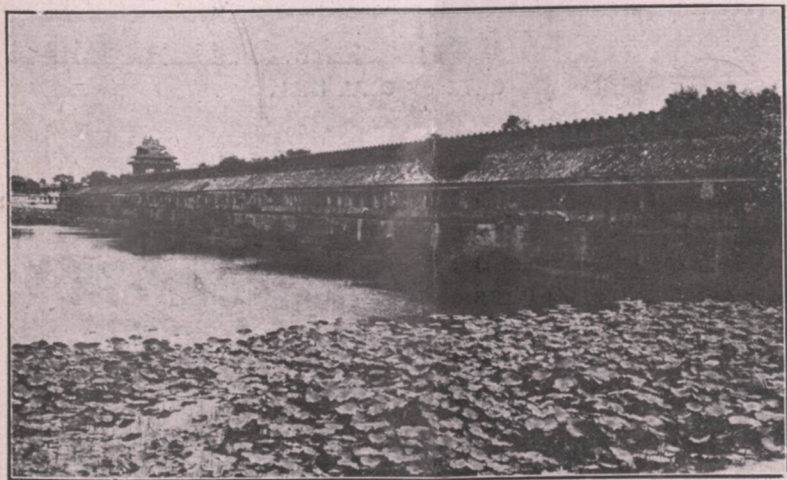
(b) *New Exhibition Halls and Store Rooms*—New exhibition halls are to be put up on the present vacant grounds south of the Museum Library and at the back of the Coal Hill. These will also have reinforced-concrete vaults attached. Besides these, fire-proof store rooms for keeping articles not on exhibit are to be built.

(c) *Palace Park*—The small houses beneath the citadel wall of the Museum have been pulled down. The empty ground between the wall and the moat is to be turned into a park by the planting of trees, etc.

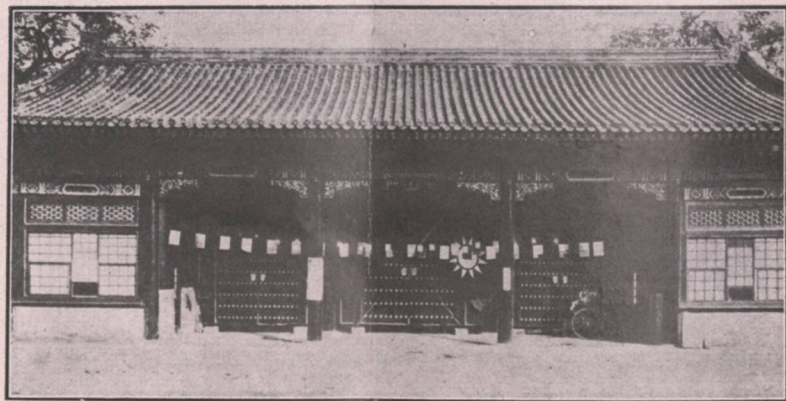
(d) *The Botanical Garden*—The Coal Hill Park, where stands the well-known Coal Hill, with a circumference of two Chinese li. The northern half of the park is ideal for the development of a botanical garden, and the Museum believes this to be the best use the grounds can be put to. It will incidentally meet a great need of the local institutions interested in botany.



ONE OF THE PAVILIONS IN EAST SECTION.



SMALL HOUSES BENEATH THE CITADEL WALL OF THE PALACE.
NOW BEING PULLED DOWN.



GATE OF COAL HILL.

ESTIMATES AND BUDGET

To carry out the above plans, the Museum estimates that over three million Mexican dollars will be needed. The approximate cost of each project is as follows:

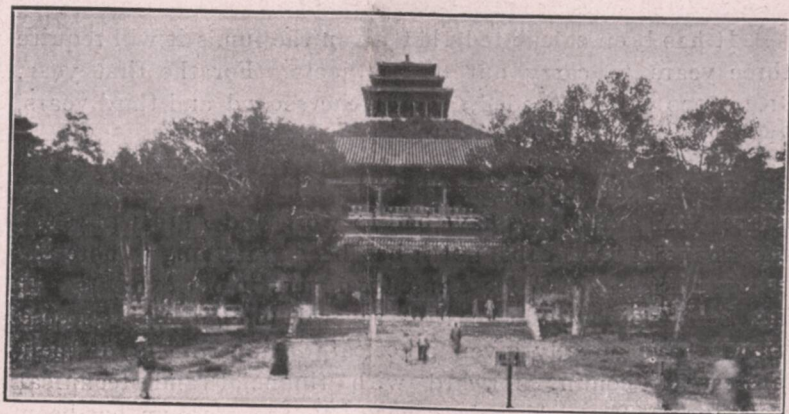
(1) Building alternations, decoration and repairs, including relaying of roads and pavements throughout the whole Palace.....	M\$1,700,000.00
(2) New exhibition halls and store rooms.	800,000.00
(3) Modern museum equipment as cases, shelves etc.....	300,000.00
(4) Heating, wiring, etc., and also for electric power and water plants, telephones, etc.....	200,000.00
(5) Park and botanical garden.....	200,000.00
Total amount.....	M\$3,200,000.00

It has been calculated that given the funds it will require three years to carry out our projects. For the first year, \$1,200,000 will be needed, and for the second and third years, \$1,000,000 each year.

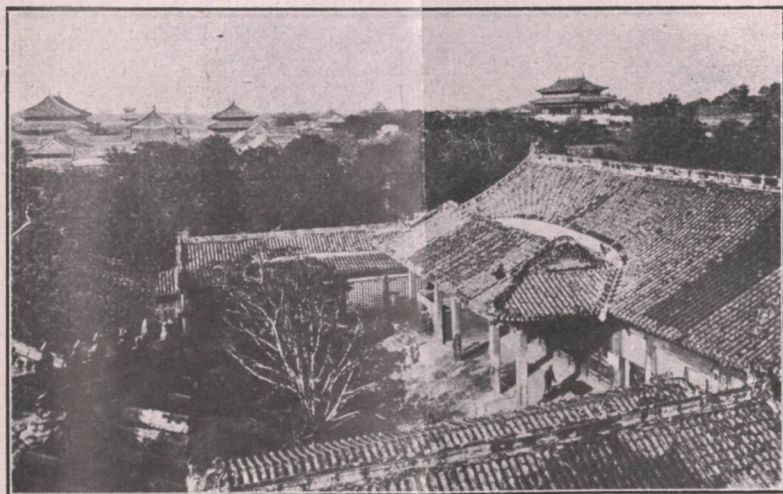
During the four years that the Museum has been in existence, the authorities have had to work under great physical and financial hand-caps, but it has been gratifying to note the growing interest of Chinese and foreigners in our exhibits. It has been very fortunate that several foreign and Chinese friends have already given practical demonstration of their interest by coming forward with financial and technical assistance. Through their generosity, the Museum has been enabled to repair and renovate the following buildings:—

- (1) Gates and towers.
- (2) Tz'u Ning Kung Garden, present exhibition hall for Buddhas.
- (3) Ching Yang Kung, present exhibition hall for Sung, Yuan, and Ming porcelains.
- (4) Cheng Chien Kung, present exhibition hall for Ch'ing porcelains.

The Museum is greatly indebted to the kind donors, and hopes that other lovers of Chinese art will help it to realize its projects for the better exhibition and preservation of the priceless collections under its custody.



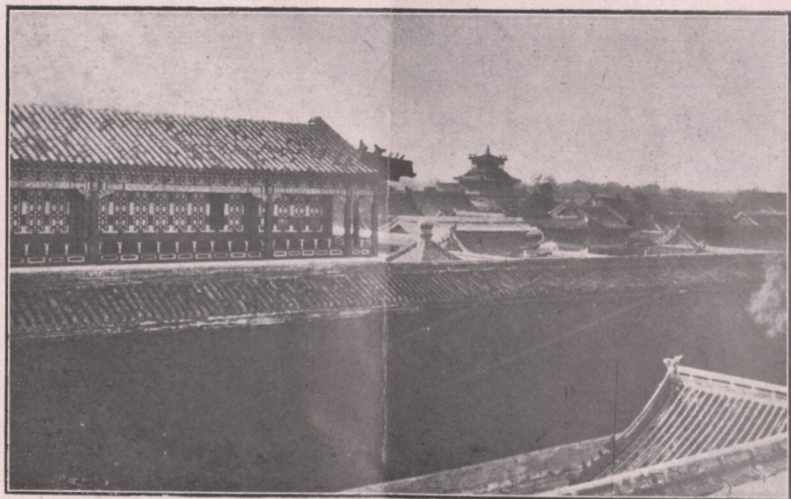
COAL HILL.



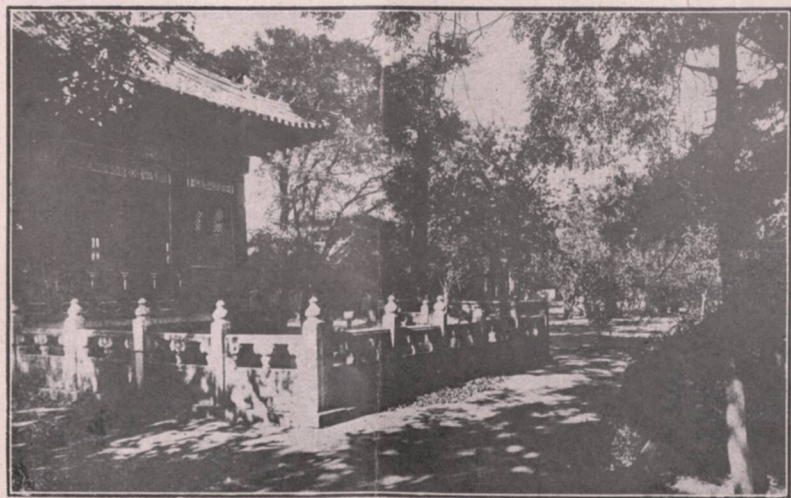
GATES AND TOWERS.



TZU NING KUNG GARDEN



VIEW OF YEN HUI KO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.



TZU NING KUNG GARDEN



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Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

